

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant hereby thanks the Examiner for the observations in the outstanding Final Office Action, for accepting the December 13, 2005, amended Specification, for accepting the December 13, 2005, amended Drawings, and for
5 allowing Claims 28, 29, 34, 35, and 43-46. Claim 44 is herein amended only for informality; and Claims 47-53 are herein canceled, without prejudice, to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicant's belief that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully asserts that no claims have been narrowed
10 within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendment after final rejection and these remarks is respectfully requested.

15 I. Rejection of Claims 47-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 47-53 have been rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Kruszewski (US 5201896). Claims 47-53 are herein canceled, without prejudice. Thus, this ground for rejection of Claims 47-53 on this basis is moot.
20 Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that this ground for rejection of Claims 47-53 on this basis be withdrawn.

II. Allowed Claims 28 - 29, and 34 - 35.

25 Claims 28 - 29, and 34 - 35 are allowed. Claim 44 is herein amended for informality only insofar as to eliminate a duplicate "a" before the term "support member." Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 28 - 29, and 34 - 35 be passed to allowance in due course.

CONCLUSION

Claims 28, 29, 34, 35, and 43-46 have been allowed, Claim 44 is herein amended only for informality, and Claims 47-53 have been herein canceled, without prejudice, to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicant's belief that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. The Applicant respectfully reasserts that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendment after final rejection and these remarks is respectfully requested. The Examiner is further cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would advance issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the pending allowed claims. In the event that any additional fees become due or payable, the Examiner is authorized to charge USPTO Deposit Account No. 03-2030 accordingly. A duplicate of this authorization is attached herewith.

Date: 2-8-06

DMC/MLD:sc

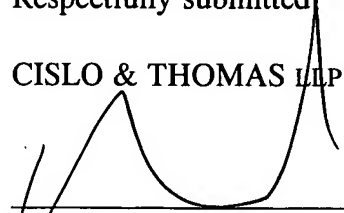
Enclosure:

Acknowledgement Postcard

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Respectfully submitted,

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